

## Chair of the Council 2015-2018

David Gamble finishes his three year term as Chair of the Council at the end of this connexional year, and the Council is required to take a nomination to the Conference for appointment for 2015-2018. Under SO 210(2)(d) eligibility to serve in this role lies with the Presidents and Vice-Presidents from the last five Conferences, prior to the year of appointment. The appointment is for three years and is not able to be extended.

The Secretary of the Conference has contacted those Presidents and Vice-Presidents eligible to serve under S Or 210(2)(d) inviting them to consider prayerfully whether or not they wished to be considered for this significant role in the life of the Church. In the event two people, Ruth Gee and Mark Wakelin, have signalled a willingness to serve the Church in this way, if nominated.

Their personal statements are shown below. Voting members will be provided with a ballot paper at the Council, and the vote will be conducted using the single transferable vote system.

**Ruth M Gee** is currently Chair of Darlington District, Chair of the Marriage and Relationships Task Group and Deputy Moderator of the CTE Forum. She is a member of the Faith and Order Committee and the Methodist representative to the URC Mission Council. She was formerly a minister and Synod Secretary in the West Yorkshire District. She has chaired the Working Group on Human Embryology and Early Human Life which brought the *Created in God's Image* report to the Conference. She chaired a number of sessions of the Council last year and presented an item of Council business to the Conference.

She would want to facilitate full participation by Council members in meetings of the Council and to ensure that the work of the Council continues to be carefully and rigorously planned, fulfilling the requirements of the Conference and the responsibilities of the Council to other groupings.

**Mark H Wakelin** was ordained in 1984. Since September 2014 he has been stationed in the Sutton Circuit. Prior to that he served as a circuit minister in the (then) Lincoln and Grimsby District and the Manchester and Stockport District. He has also served the Church as Connexional Secretary for Youth and Community and MAYC National Secretary, the Director of the Guy Chester Centre, and as the Secretary for Internal Relationships. He has been involved in Prison and Hospice Chaplaincy, served as a Magistrate on the Stockport Bench, and been involved in local politics through the Labour Party. Throughout his ministry he has maintained an academic interest in areas of policy and education. His research interests include the way that the church can engage creatively with secular ideas of organisation, education and leadership and he is a member of a recently formed academic grouping, 'the Susannah Wesley Foundation' at the University of Roehampton. He is a regular contributor to the BBC 'Prayer for the Day' and 'Daily Service' programmes and has written for various publications, academic and spiritual over the years. He is a keen walker, gardener and natural history enthusiast and currently on the Epsom Common Allotments management committee. Mark is married to Judith, has three grown up children and four granddaughters.